University of Kentucky 2015 High Tunnel Webinar Series

Season extension of crops is a great opportunity for produce growers, and across Kentucky more producers are starting to use high tunnels. Learn about season extension in high tunnel production systems in a new webinar series sponsored by the Center for Crop Diversification and the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. There will be six webinars, each 75 minutes long in February and March 2015. The series will cover market opportunities, structure options and construction, organic production and certification, crop and equipment options, pest pressure and control, as well as a summary of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative program.

Webinar format:
Each webinar will be comprised of a 60 minute presentation and then 15 minutes will be available for questions.

What Do I Do Before a Webinar:
To be sure your computer is set up correctly for the webinar, visit: https://connect.uky.edu/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm

Season Extension Opportunities + EQIP Funding
Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 6:30pm – 7:45pm EST
We will provide an overview of season extension and the pros and cons of utilizing season extension technology: high tunnels, low tunnels, row covers, marketing and planning for your markets before building a high tunnel, and an overview of the basics of high tunnel economics. Kentucky NRCS specialists will also provide a summary of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative during this webinar.

Structure Options, Construction, Ventilation & Temperature Control
Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 6:30pm to 7:45pm EST
This webinar will introduce you to structure options and layouts for high tunnels, thinking about stationary or moveable high tunnels, as well as construction tips and ideas. We will also cover ventilation and temperature control within your high tunnel throughout the year.

Organic Production and Certification in High Tunnels & Economic and Marketing Considerations in High Tunnels
Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 6:30pm to 7:45pm EST
Adam Watson, the Organic Marketing representative from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, will introduce you to organic certification and how it relates to high tunnel production. Thinking about economics and marketing of high tunnel crops throughout the year will also be covered.

Crop and Equipment Options and Nutrient and Irrigation Management in High Tunnels
Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 6:30pm to 7:45pm EST
What to plant? When to plant? We’ll cover crop options over the course of the year for continued high tunnel production in Kentucky climates. We’ll also cover what types of equipment can be easily used for high tunnel production as well as go over nutrient and irrigation management in high tunnel production systems.
Insect, Weed and Disease Control in High Tunnels
Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 6:30pm to 7:45pm EST
High tunnels can protect crops from some insect, weed or disease pressures, but they can sometimes harbor and magnify pest problems. During this webinar, our specialists will teach you how to manage pest pressures with cultural and biological controls, and available pesticide and fungicides approved for use in high tunnels in Kentucky.

Producer Views & Series Wrap-up
Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 6:30pm to 7:45pm EST
To finish the 2015 High Tunnel Webinar Series, two high tunnel producers will be sharing their successes and challenges of high tunnel production. Paul and Allison Wiediger of Au Naturel Farm will be talking about over 20 years of organic high tunnel production experience in Smiths Grove, Kentucky. Mark and Velvet Henkle of Henkle’s Herbs & Heirlooms will share their story as beginning farmers from the past eight years of production in Nicholasville, Kentucky. We will also provide some final resources, and wish you good luck!

Questions? Contact:
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